

Father Snowden House
Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania.

HABS No. Pa. 223

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
Ralph W. Lear, District Officer
311-312 Dime Bank Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

FATHER SNOWDEN HOUSE
Forty-Fort, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Owner, at Present

Fred M. Keeler, 1619 Wyoming Avenue, Forty-Fort, Pa.

Date of Erection

Between 1839 and 1840.

Builder

Reverend Ebenezer Hazard Snowden

Present Condition

Poor.

Number of Stories

One and one-half stories.

Materials of Construction

Foundation walls are stone, frame building. Original floors are white pine; modern floors are yellow pine. Roof rafters are covered with shingle lath and wood shingles.

FATHER SNOWDEN HOUSE
Forty-Fort, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Reverend Ebenezer Hazard Snowden was a retired clergyman of Forty-Fort Borough. He was born June, 1799, at Princeton, New Jersey.

He was educated in a select school at New Hartford, New York; at Hamilton College; and at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was admitted to practise law in the Supreme Court of New York, at Utica, in 1821, after his graduation from Hamilton College. Soon afterward, he abandoned his practise, and went to Princeton. He was licensed at Newtown, Long Island, in 1825, and ordained in New York City, in 1826.

His first charge was at St. Augustine, Florida, where he remained for three years; he was then pastor at Brownsville, near Sacket's Harbor, for three years. He then came to Kingston, Pennsylvania, where he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, for eight years.

The First Presbyterian Church of Kingston, began to exist as a distinct organization in 1819. A council of ministers organized a church, according to the customs of the Congregationalists. It was, from the first, called the Presbyterian Church of Kingston, but not until 1823, did it really become Presbyterian.

In the early days of it's existence, members of the church, resided all over the township. Meetings were very often held at various homes, but usually in the old Academy. It was not until Reverend Snowden came here that the congregation outgrew the old Academy. He immediately began to exert all his time and energy in an attempt to build a church for the congregation. He finally succeeded; and in 1841, was begun the erection of a church edifice on Wyoming Avenue, Forty-Fort. It was dedicated in November, 1842.

After a service of eight years at the Kingston Church, Reverend Snowden went to Warren, in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, as a pastor and remained for two years, after which he moved to Plymouth, Pennsylvania, and established a church, remaining five years. He then went to Larksville, Pennsylvania, where he founded a church known as "Snowden Memorial Church". He was there five years. The church is now non-existent. He then returned to Kingston, where he became known as "Father" Snowden.

It seemed almost impossible to discover just when Father Snowden built his home in Forty-Fort, known as "Snowden Cottage". A deed was finally discovered in the old records at the Court House. It is dated October, 3, 1839; in the amount of \$1000.00 "Situate in the township of Kingston", (now known as Forty-Fort) "beginning at the corner of lot #17, in second division of lots on the main road; containing nine acres." It is therefore logical that "Snowden Cottage" was built by Reverend Snowden between 1839 and 1840.

He lived in this house until his death in 1899. He was one hundred years old.

Reverend Snowden married twice. His second wife died in 1892.

The Father Snowden House is fairly well preserved, but at present, is in poor condition. It is of the one and one-half story type. The foundation walls are stone and the superstructure consists of 4 x 5 studs, approximately 36 inches on center; braced and covered, on exterior, with siding and on interior, with wood lath and plaster. Roof rafters are covered with shingle lath and wood shingles.

The front entrance and dormers have very nice detail. Main stairs from first to second floor, are simple, with well proportioned newels, hand rails, and balusters.

Original floors are white pine, of random widths. Modern floors are yellow pine. The windows have small lights.

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Most of the fireplaces have been closed, although
the mantels still remain. These are of simple design.

Historic Material obtained from: "History of Luzerne
County"; "History of Certified Township of Kingston"-Brewster.
Court House Records; and Dr. Von Krug, of Wyoming.

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Date.....*March, 1937*.....